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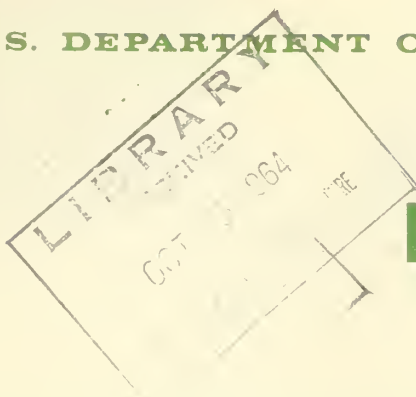
HOUSE PLANNING AIDS



August 1964

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



LAUNDRY AREAS

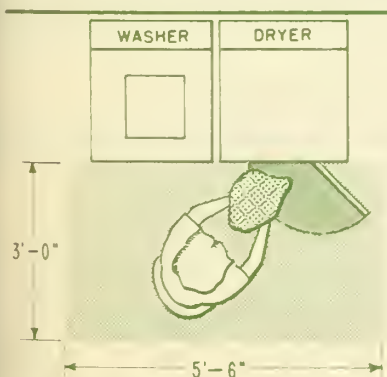
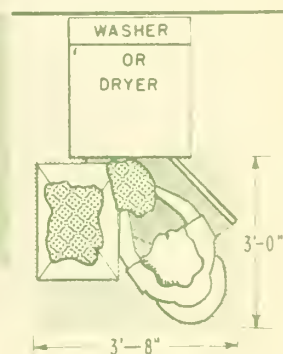
Choose a laundry area that best suits your needs and your house plan. The space requirements and arrangements illustrated will help you to plan an adequate and convenient laundry area.

The dimensions given in the sketches are for the minimum space needed to operate laundry equipment. To determine the overall dimensions for your laundry area, add the space needed for the equipment selected.

MINIMUM RECOMMENDED WORKSPACE TO USE LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

WASHER OR DRYER

The depth of the workspace needed in front of a washer, dryer, or combination washer-dryer is 3 feet; the width is 3 feet 8 inches. This includes space for a laundry basket or cart.



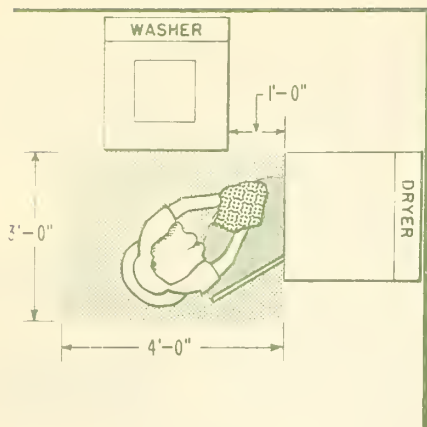
WASHER AND DRYER SIDE BY SIDE

When the washer and dryer are installed side by side, the depth of the space needed in front of the equipment remains 3 feet, but the width should be increased to 5 feet 6 inches.



WASHER AND DRYER OPPOSITE EACH OTHER

If the washer and dryer are placed opposite each other, 3 feet of workspace is needed between the two appliances. The width needed is the same as that for using a washer or dryer by itself—3 feet 8 inches.

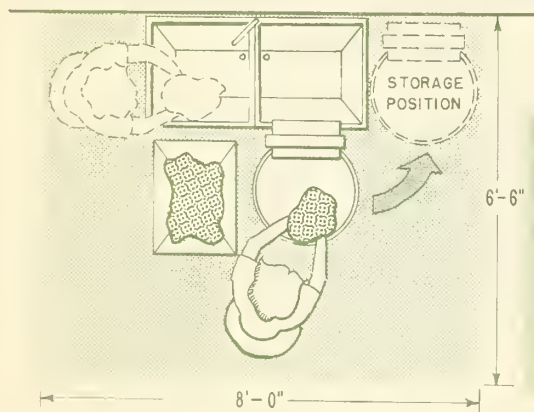
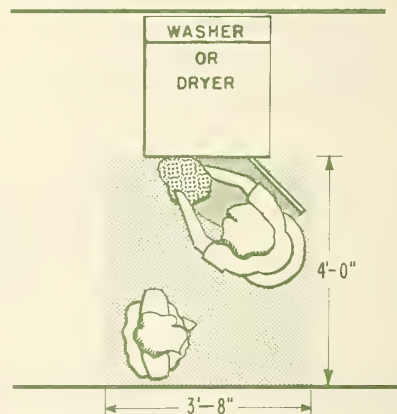


WASHER AND DRYER AT RIGHT ANGLES

Arrangements with the dryer to the right and at an angle to the washer were found, through research, to be the most convenient. If the dryer is placed at right angles to the washer, allow 1 foot of space between equipment. The depth of the workspace required in front of the washer is 3 feet, and the width is 4 feet.

WASHER AND DRYER IN A PASSAGEWAY

If laundry appliances are placed in a passageway, the depth of the space in front of the equipment must be increased to 4 feet. This allows space for one person to pass while another is working.

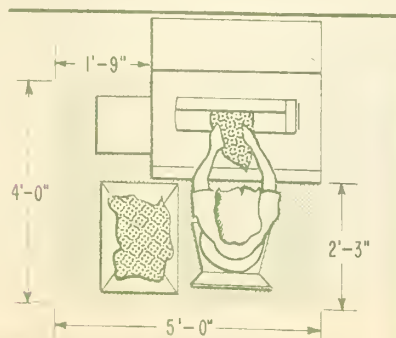
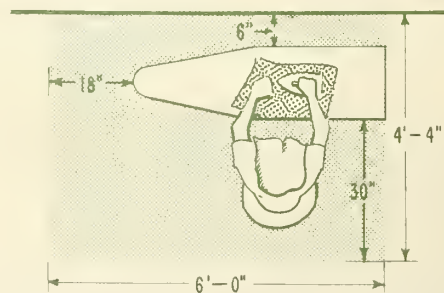


NONAUTOMATIC WASHER

A space 6 feet 6 inches by 8 feet is needed for the use of a nonautomatic washer with stationary laundry tubs. If space permits, place tubs away from walls so you can work from three sides of the tubs.

HAND IRONING

The total space required for ironing is 4 feet 4 inches by 6 feet. This space will accommodate the ironing board, a chair, and a clothesbasket or cart, and provides for working efficiently. Additional space will be needed if you want a clothesrack.



IRONERS

A space 4 feet by 5 feet is adequate for using an ironer. Increase the space to 4 feet 6 inches by 7 feet 9 inches if you want a table on which to place the finished articles or a rack on which to hang them.

EQUIPMENT SIZES

Sizes of laundry equipment vary greatly. Ranges in dimensions of current models are:

Automatic washers.....	Widths.....	26 to 30 inches
	Depths.....	25 to 29 inches
Automatic dryers.....	Widths.....	26 to 32 inches
	Depths.....	26 to 29 inches
Combination washer-dryers.....	Widths.....	26 to 35 inches
	Depths.....	26 to 29 inches
Wringer washers.....	Widths.....	24 to 28 inches
	Depths.....	24 to 31 inches

A space 32 inches wide and 31 inches deep will accommodate a washer or a dryer. Regardless of the size of your present equipment, allow at least this amount of space for equipment placed between built-in cabinets or walls. If you place your equipment under a window, the sill should be at least 3 inches above the back panel of the appliance. Washers and dryers vary in height from 36 to 46 inches.

DRYING LINES

Lines for drying clothes should be at least 4 inches apart. In humid climates, 8-inch spacing is recommended. Allow 2 feet of passageway in front of your lines.

The total length of line needed for one, two, and three washer loads is:

1 load.....	40 feet
2 loads.....	90 feet
3 loads.....	130 feet



SORTING TABLE OR COUNTER

A surface 3 feet by 6 feet is required for sorting clothes. The most convenient height for a homemaker of average height is 32 inches. Taller women will find a higher table—up to 37 inches—more convenient.

LAUNDRY BASKET OR CART

A laundry basket or cart is a necessity for efficient laundry operations. Sizes and shapes vary. Remember to plan storage for your laundry cart or basket.

INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC EQUIPMENT

Check the requirements in your local electrical and plumbing codes, and follow the instructions of the manufacturer

WATER CONNECTIONS—Separate hot and cold water faucets with standard hose connections are required adjacent to the washer.

Water shutoff valves should be within easy reach. Turn water off after each wash period to relieve the pressure on the connecting hose and valves.

WATER PRESSURE—Most automatic washers require pressures of at least 10 p.s.i. (pounds per square inch) but will stand pressures up to 120 p.s.i. without damage.

DRAINAGE—A stationary tub, sink, or open drainpipe close to the washer is required. The pipe opening should be a minimum of 25 inches above the floor and at least 1¼ inches inside diameter. Consider installation of a floor drain in the laundry area.

ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS—Use 115-volt, 60-cycle, AC circuit of 15- or 20-amp. capacity for the washer.

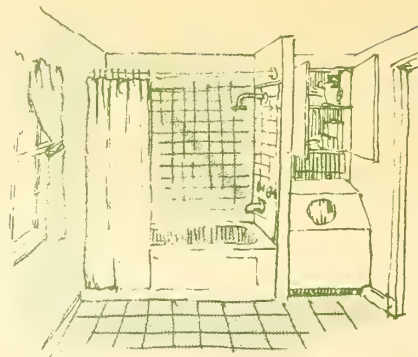
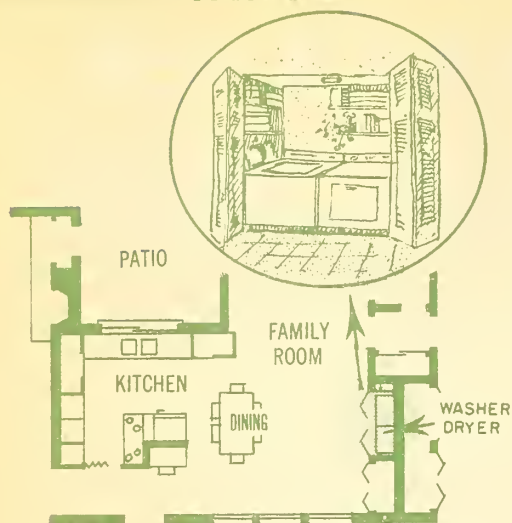
Most electric dryers are designed to use 230-volt, 3-wire, 60-cycle, AC circuits of 30-amp. capacity. Some high-speed dryers (8,000- to 9,000-watt) require greater capacity circuits. Some dryers are available or can be converted to operate on 115-volt, 60-cycle currents.

Grounded outlets should be used for all washers and dryers.

GAS CONNECTIONS—If the dryer is gas fired, consult your local gas supplier for installation requirements. Be sure to have a cutoff valve installed at the dryer for ease of servicing.

For additional information on connecting to the plumbing, see "Planning the Electric Water System and Plumbing for Your Farmstead." USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 674

WHERE TO LOCATE LAUNDRY AREAS

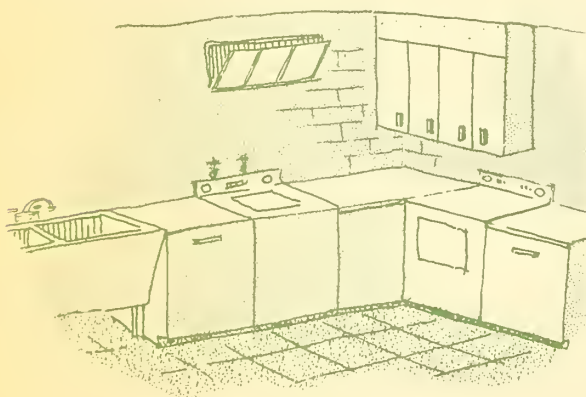


IN THE BATHROOM

This location is a good choice for economy in plumbing and is convenient to the source of soiled clothing and to storage of clothing and household linens. Finish on bathroom walls can usually withstand the increased moisture in the air associated with laundering.

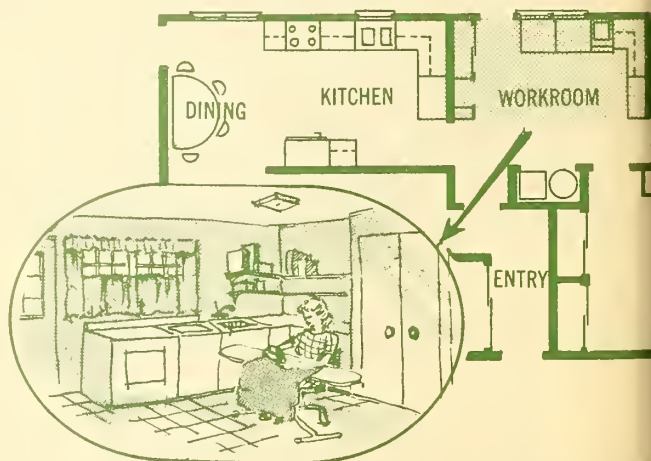
IN THE KITCHEN OR FAMILY ROOM

This location is convenient because you can organize your work and save time and energy. But remember that heat and noise are associated with the use of laundry equipment. Be sure to vent your dryer to the outside.



IN THE BASEMENT

The basement is the traditional location for the laundry area. Laundry clutter, heat, moisture, and noise are isolated from the living areas of the house. Usually the laundry area in this location can be generous in size.



IN THE WORKROOM

If you want your laundry area on the main floor of your house but away from other activity areas, plan a separate workroom. Laundry activities can then be combined with canning and freezing, sewing, or hobbies.

Based on cooperative research with the Southern, Northeastern, North Central, and Western regions

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